

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-11 and 13-16 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, and 13-16 were independent. Claim 12 has been previously withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action dated July 22, 2003, Claims 1-9, 11, and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Following this response, Claims 1-11, 13, and 15-22 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action dated July 22, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 11, 13, and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,669,040 ("*Hisatake*"). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to Claims 1 and 11 overcome the Examiner's rejection and add no new matter. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. And Claims 13, 15, and 16 have been rewritten in dependent form to depend from Claim 1.

Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art in that it at least recites, for example, a "setting means for setting a pause condition of a job" and a "pause means for making an execution of at least one of the plurality of jobs satisfying the pause condition independent of the remaining plurality of jobs in response to a predetermined event." Similar to the latter recitation of Claim 1, Claim 11 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art in that it at least recites, for example, a "pause means for making an execution of at least one of the plurality of jobs satisfying the second condition pause

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independent of the remaining plurality of jobs in response to the predetermined event." Furthermore, Claim 11 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art in that it at least recites, for example, "a stop means for stopping the job satisfying the first condition in response to the predetermined event."

In contrast, *Hisatake* at least does not disclose any of the aforementioned recitations. For example, the Examiner contends that *Hisatake* teaches means for setting a condition of a job which is directed to a pausing job because, according to the Examiner, *Hisatake* discloses condition setting of a job (Alternation key shown in Fig. 7 and other figures) (page 2, section 8 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully submit that, as shown in Fig. 8 (column 13, lines 1-10), *Hisatake* sets a condition of a job, but does not set a pause condition of a job. Accordingly, *Hisatake* at least does not disclose a "setting means for setting a pause condition of a job", as recited in Claim 1.

Further, *Hisatake* recites:

*The reason why these two jobs are processed in parallel is that although all the jobs with hob numbers 1-6 require printout processing in the image output section 14 in Fig. 2, the job with job number 7 may be processed in the communication control section 20 and can be processed without contending with any other jobs (emphasis added, column 15, lines 36-41).*

In other words, *Hisatake* requires "without contending with any other jobs" as a condition for executing jobs in parallel. On the contrary, amended Claim 1 recites that "pause means for making an execution of at least one of the plurality of jobs satisfying the condition pause independent of the remaining plurality of jobs in response to a predetermined event." (Emphasis added.) Therefore, even if the wait state of *Hisatake* were identical to a pause state of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit

that *Hisatake* would not have led to the invention, as recited in Claims 1 and 11.

Moreover, the Examiner contends that *Hisatake* discloses "means for stopping the job satisfying the first condition in response to the predetermined event," as recited in Claim 11, because, according to the Examiner, *Hisatake* discloses a STOP button (Figs. 7-10, 14, 16, 26-27) (section 23 of the Office Action). However, *Hisatake* is silent with respect to this recitation. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 11 patentably distinguish the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Dependent Claims 2-10, 13, and 15-16 are also allowable at least for the reasons above regarding independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-10, 13, and 15-16.

## II. New Claims

Claims 17-22 have been added to more distinctly define the invention to which Applicants are entitled. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable over the cited art and that they add no new matter.

## III. Conclusion

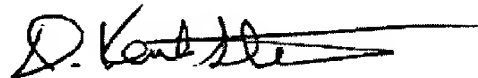
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that

were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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